

The Blitz

London at War 1940
Surviving in a city in flames



**MAIN THEMES : Critical Thinking, Crisis Response,
Team Building & Education**

Outline

The game is about fire-fighting in the London Blitz of 1940. The main focus is on the challenges of deploying firefighters and rescue services while under attack. The game presents a series of operational and resource management problems – the extent of which is not always full known – so players are responding to an emerging situation that is in a state of flux.

Gameplay

Players are grouped into teams which represent different parts of the London Fire Brigade's command structure. Each team has a set of local resources and maps and information of the district of the city that it their responsibility. Game facilitators then provide real time information regarding the unfolding situation and the team must reach decisions quickly and manage their limited resources as best they can. One of the teams represents the overall command centre and attempts to co-ordinate the teams, helping them by re-allocating



resources, or calling on additional resources from outside London.

The key to the game is the way the players analyse their particular situation and the incomplete information arriving at their HQ, as well as how they communicate with other teams and their higher command.

At the end of the game there is a debrief of the process and how the teams managed their information flow and decision making and how communications worked both within and between the teams. Teams have the opportunity to reflect on how their decision making was affected by the low-information environment and the time pressure and how this might inform their practice and planning in future

Ideal Audiences

- Organisations wishing to practice critical thinking and crisis response skills.
- Organisations seeking a team building challenge.
- Students looking at the Second World War or the history of London

Example game structures

The Blitz : For 12 players	
Team	Number in team
London Fire HQ	3
District 'B' HQ	3
District 'C' HQ	3
District 'D' HQ	3
Total	12

The Blitz : for 30 players	
Team	Number in team
London Fire HQ	5
District 'A' HQ	3
District 'A' HQ	3
District 'A' HQ	3
District 'A' HQ	3
District 'A' HQ	3
District 'A' HQ	3
District 'A' HQ	3
District 'A' HQ	3
Salvage Corps HQ	3
Ambulance HQ	4
Total	30